

January 28, 2020

RE: A Miami University Health Update

Dear Miami Community,

I am following up on [our announcement this morning](#) about two off-campus, Oxford students being tested for the coronavirus. Currently, these students are being monitored by public health and Miami University officials and are being isolated as a precaution. The Ohio Department of Health has indicated there are no confirmed cases in the State of Ohio at this time. Please be assured that Miami University is closely collaborating with the Butler County Health District and the Ohio Department of Health to treat these students and to take all appropriate precautions to protect the health and safety of the entire Miami Community. The [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) (CDC) indicates the risk in the United States is low.

Miami is following the advice of public health officials in Butler County and the State of Ohio. At this point in time, we plan to maintain our regular academic class schedule. This mirrors the protocol that is being followed at other universities, including Baylor University, Wesleyan University, Tennessee Tech University, and Texas A&M University, who also isolated students while coronavirus tests were being conducted.

The Butler County Health District offers this advice:

*“Unless you have recently traveled from China or have been around someone ill with this new virus, your risk of getting sick is low. If you have traveled from China and are experiencing signs and symptoms, contact your doctor BEFORE going to work or attending class. Miami students, who meet this criteria and are experiencing signs or symptoms, should contact Student Health Services at [513-529-3000](tel:513-529-3000) for further instructions.”*

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Ohio Department of Health tell us the most effective means of protection are the same as those precautions that prevent other illnesses such as the flu:

- Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- It is especially important to wash your hands:
  - Before, during, and after you prepare food.
  - Before you eat and after you use the bathroom.
  - After handling cash.
  - More frequently when someone in your house is sick.
  - Before/after smoking/vaping.
  - Before/after using public computers.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available.
- Frequently clean your doorknobs, light switches, and other commonly touched areas with disinfectant wipes.
- Avoid contact with sick people.

For any general questions or concerns, we have set up a call center at [513-529-9000](tel:513-529-9000) that is staffed from 8 am to 5 pm (EST) this week. We also have [developed a webpage](#) to keep you updated with the latest information.

I'd like to thank Governor DeWine, the Ohio Department of Health, and the Butler County Health District for their advice, guidance, and support. Soon, we will be posting the video of the press conference held this afternoon with Miami and representatives from these organizations. The conference provided important information that addresses many questions.

At Miami, we treat each other with compassion, care, and understanding. As always, our number one priority is the safety and well-being of our students, faculty, staff, and campus community.

With Love and Honor,  
Gregory P. Crawford  
President